We claim:

1. A method for providing a relational view of electronic objects, comprising steps of:

obtaining organizing rules for organizing electronic objects;

applying the obtained organizing rules against one or more electronic objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and

rendering the organized electronic objects.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering comprises a hierarchical view.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering comprises a nodal view.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering comprises a network view.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering comprises a visual view.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic objects comprise at least one of e-mail messages, textual documents, and image files.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific organizing criteria for a multi-level index.

8. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating operation of

the applying step and the rendering step upon occurrence of a new electronic object.

9. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon modification of the organizing rules.

10. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon request of a user.

11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify one or more of text characters, text words, and text phrases as organizing criteria.

12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify image files as organizing criteria.

13. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the organizing rules, further comprising steps of:

retrieving a selection of categories;

enabling a user to select one or more of the retrieved categories; and

for each selected category, enabling the user to build at least one rule.

14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein the step of enabling the user to build at least one rule further comprises the steps of:

retrieving a selection of organizing criteria;

enabling the user to select one or more of the retrieved organizing criteria; and

formatting a particular rule from the selected retrieved organizing criteria.

15. A system for providing a relational view of electronic objects, comprising:

means for obtaining organizing rules for organizing electronic objects, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific organizing criteria for a multi-level index;

means for applying the obtained organizing rules against one or more electronic objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and

means for rendering the organized electronic objects.

16. A computer program product for providing a relational view of electronic objects, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for obtaining organizing rules for organizing electronic objects, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific organizing criteria for a multi-level index;

computer-readable program code means for applying the obtained organizing rules against one or more electronic objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and

computer-readable program code means for rendering the organized electronic objects.